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**Four Corners Ozone Task Force Steering Committee to Meet**

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**Public Invited**

(Farmington, NM) – The Four Corners Ozone Task Force steering committee will be holding its first meeting on Wednesday, November 20, in Farmington. The steering committee plans to discuss the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Early Action Ozone Compact option for areas that are close to exceeding the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard.

The task force and steering committee were formed out of citizen concern about elevated ozone levels in the Farmington area, which could affect public health. The long-term goals of the Task Force are to preserve the region's air quality and prevent the area from exceeding national ambient air quality standards in the future.

The task force steering committee meeting will be facilitated through a pilot project promoting public collaborative efforts with the New Mexico Environment Department and funded through the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.

At the initial Four Corners Ozone Task Force meeting on October 10, the steering committee was created to help guide the task force. The steering committee consists of 18 individuals representing a variety of interests including: environmental groups, local government, industry groups, health groups, air quality agencies, federal agencies, and concerned citizens. The New

Mexico Environment Department's Air Quality Bureau will participate as a member of the steering committee, contributing technical expertise.

The steering committee meeting will be Wednesday, November 20, in the San Juan room of the Courtyard by Marriott, located at 560 Scott Avenue, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

For more information on the steering committee or how to join the Four Corners Ozone Task Force, please contact Julia Hosford Barnes, Consortium for Public Collaboration at: (505) 982-3993.

For additional information, contact or Mary Uhl, Planning and Policy Section Manager, Air Quality Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department at: (505) 955-8086, or Cathy Tyson-Foster, Communications Director, NMED, (505) 827-0314.

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